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State Representative Terry Keel

Dist. 47

State Representative

January 14, 1997 to present. Representative Keel is Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Public Safety and a member of the House Criminal Jurisprudence and General Investigating Committees. District 47 has the largest population of any House district and covers over half the area of Travis County, including the cities of Westlake Hills, Lakeway, Rollingwood, Lago Vista, Jonestown, Bee Cave, Pflugerville and large portions of Austin. Keel has authored numerous pieces of legislation including significant public safety and criminal justice-related measures passed in the 75th and 76th legislative sessions. In May 1999 he was named an honorary life member of the Austin Police Association for his work as a legislator and his prior service as Sheriff and Assistant District Attorney.

Sheriff, Travis County

November 17, 1992 to January 1, 1997. The first Republican Sheriff elected in Travis County, Keel served as the county's chief law enforcement officer, supervising a staff of over 1200 corrections and law enforcement personnel. Sheriff Keel successfully managed inmate populations exceeding 2,500 during

the worst jail over-crowding era in Travis County history and established a program for housing jail prisoners in tents. He implemented numerous innovative programs, including: the construction of corrections facilities using inmate labor; the expansion of inmate agriculture, labor and education programs; the establishment of a professional victim services program with a crime-scene response; and the implementation of joint law enforcement operations between the Travis County Sheriff's Office and the Austin Police Department, including narcotics, criminal intelligence and training. Sheriff Keel received several distinguished law enforcement and civic awards, including, the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal from the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (1995).

Assistant District Attorney, Travis County

July 23, 1984 to November 17, 1992. Keel served as lead prosecutor in over fifty contested felony jury trials and held the position of Chief Prosecutor over several units, including: Major Crimes, Organized Crime, District Court, Child Abuse and Juvenile Prosecution. From 1987 to 1991 Keel also was assigned to Austin Police Department Headquarters to establish and supervise the District Attorney's Office / Austin Police Department Repeat Offender Program, one of the first of its kind in the United States, consisting of specially trained prosecutors and police officers in a joint program targeting career criminals for apprehension and prosecution. As Chief of the R. O. P. Unit, Keel participated in the arrest of over 200 felony career criminals and the service of more than 100 search warrants. In addition, he was designated as the lead Assistant D. A. in numerous capital murder, homicide, sexual assault and attempted capital murder cases, including the second courtroom case in the United States using PCR DNA. During his service as Assistant District Attorney, Keel received numerous honors and awards, including three certificates of appreciation from the Chief of Police (1986, 1991, 1992), awards from the Austin Police Association for the prosecution of career criminals (1986), for homicide prosecution (1989), and capital murder prosecution (1992), and award recognitions from the A.P.D. Sex Crimes Detail (1985) and Hispanic Crimes Unit (1988).

Education

University of Houston, College of Law - Doctor of Jurisprudence conferred May 1983. University of Texas at Austin - Bachelor of Arts in English conferred August 1980. LBJ High School, Austin, Texas - Diploma conferred May 1976. Senior Class President.

Professional Licenses and Memberships

Admitted to the State Bar of Texas, June 24, 1983. Licensed to practice law by the Supreme Courts of Texas and the United States. Licensed also in the federal District Courts for the Western and Southern Districts of Texas, and the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. His law firm, the Law Offices of Terry Keel, Austin, Texas, represents clients at the trial and appellate levels in state and federal courts in Austin and throughout Texas. He also was appointed by the District Attorney of Hays County as a special prosecutor before the grand jury in 1999 - 2000. Keel holds Master and Advanced Peace Officer licenses and is additionally certified as an Instructor of Peace Officers by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education. From 1990 to 1996, he was the penal code instructor for the Austin Police Department Training Academy. Representative Keel is an appointee of the Texas Attorney General to the Advisory Council of the Crime Victim's Institute and is a member of the St. Edwards University School of Behavioral and Social Sciences Advisory Board.

Other Recognitions and Awards

Commission on State Emergency Communications (for service on the Agency Board from 1995-1999) 2000

The University of Texas System Board of Regents (for service to the University of Texas System) 1999

Amicus Dermatological Award Texas Dermatological Society 1998

The Society for Former Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (recognizing service to the organization and the community) 1993

Published Articles

Criminal Law Update - 76th Legislative Session Texas Bar Journal, September 1999

Direct and Cross Examination of the Psychiatrist Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, Incompetency/Insanity Defense Seminar, November 1986.

Videotaped Testimony of Child Victims True Bill - The Newsletter of the Prosecutor Council, June 1984.

Civic Activities

Emerald Society of Texas, Austin Police Department Charter member and current board member
Member, Emmaus Catholic Church, Lakeway

Personal

Born in Austin January 13, 1958 and raised in a family of six boys and one girl; fifth generation Austinite. Children: twin sons, Travis and Sean, age 13.

